

come into nursing. And I think this has to be a greater Federal commitment. I think that we have to begin to look at the salary scale, look at the kind of training they have and to see what we can do. Look at a situation that we might be able to provide scholarships in large way, a loan forgiveness. We need to find ways to make certain that we are being very friendly to that profession.

I think it has not been treated fairly. I think that this legislation helps us to begin to look at it in a way that we should look at it. But the point is do not think this legislation is a solution. Let us look at what we can do with this now and then come back and do more.

I want to thank my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for staying there and working on this, and, of course, my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and saying that we must stop talking about it and begin to do something. And now we are doing something.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would say amen to that.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to again thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his excellent leadership in this legislation. I also keep in mind the many nurses across this country with whom I have worked closely and who have supported this legislation who know firsthand the importance of it and their patients who will benefit from it.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3487, the Nurse Reinvestment Act, and commend my colleague Representative CAPPS for her leadership in addressing the current nursing shortage.

Today, health care institutions across the nation are experiencing a crisis in nurse staffing. In my district, hospital emergency departments divert patients to other hospitals over 75 percent of the time because of inadequate nurses to staff the critical care units where most emergency admissions are transferred for care. In a recent meeting with San Francisco's emergency response leaders, the Director of Emergency Health Services cited inadequate nurse staffing for emergency departments, critical care units, and surgical units as a major problem.

The shortage of educated, licensed Registered Nurses poses a significant threat to our nation's health care system, and we must act. The Nurse Reinvestment Act responds to this shortage by advertising and promoting the nursing profession to young people making career choices, broadening critical loan repayment programs and increasing the number of scholarships available for nursing students.

Employers in hospitals, long-term care facilities are having difficulty finding experienced nurses, especially in emergency room and long term care. The safety and quality of care provided in the nation's health care facilities is directly related to the number and mix of direct care nursing staff. Studies show that when

there are more nurses, there are lower mortality rates, shorter lengths of stay, lower costs, and fewer complications. The Institute of Medicine has documented that increased mortality and morbidity in long term facilities, where our most frail spend their final months, is directly related to inadequate nurse staffing.

This shortage is compounded by the lack of young people entering the nursing profession, the rapid aging of the nursing workforce, and the impending health care needs of the baby boom generation.

As new opportunities have opened up for young women and new stresses have been added to the profession of nursing, fewer people have opted to choose nursing as a career. For the past six years, new admissions into nursing schools have consistently dropped. Without sufficient numbers of young people entering nursing, the average age of nurses has increased steadily. As a result, the average working RN is over 43 years old and large numbers of nurses are expected to retire over the next decade. At the same time, the need for complex nursing services will only increase due to the aging of the population.

Now is the time to begin to address this impending public health crisis. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Nurse Reinvestment Act.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3487, the Nurse Reinvestment Act. The United States health care system relies heavily on the services provided by nurses who are essential for ensuring comfortable and quality care for all patients. Unfortunately, health care providers and recent media reports have reported rising vacancy rates in the nursing profession.

Due to the lack of young people entering the nursing profession, the average age of the working nurse has increased to over 43 years old. If we do not encourage more young people to choose a career in nursing, the nursing workforce may reach dangerously low levels. This is taking place during a time when our demand for nursing services is growing, and will continue to grow into the future.

To combat this problem and encourage more young people to enter the nursing profession, this legislation provides for public service announcements that highlight the rewards of a career in nursing. Additionally, the bill expands Title 8 of the Public Health Service Act to provide scholarships for nursing students. Students receiving these loans and scholarships will be required to serve in a health care facility that has a shortage of nurses.

H.R. 3487 also provides for a study on nursing faculty. As more and more people enter nursing school, it is necessary to ensure there will be an adequate number of faculty to train them.

I commend Chairman BILIRAKIS and Mrs. CAPPS for working in a truly bipartisan manner to craft this legislation to ensure our nation will have enough nursing professionals to ensure quality patient care. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Nurse Reinvestment Act.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3487, the Nurse Reinvestment Act.

While today's bill is a start toward the Nation's nursing shortage problems, we still have a series of outstanding issues which have not been addressed in this bill. Chief among them

is the 100,000 nursing personnel shortage for long-term care facilities. The shortages include RNs, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs). Recent General Accounting Office (GAO) report indicates that "With the aging of the population, demand for nurse aides is expected to grow dramatically, with the supply of workers who have traditionally filled these jobs will remain virtually unchanged." Other reports suggest that the current nurse workforce issues are part of a larger healthcare workforce shortage that includes a shortage of Nurse Aides.

Additionally, we must address the lack of minority representation in the nursing profession as well as resources to ensure that we have sufficient Advance Practice Nurses to provide primary preventative care in underserved communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these concerns as part of the Reauthorization of the Health Professions Act next session. None of the above issues can be solved simply by "Market Forces." If it was a question of simple economics, then we would not have a 100,000 personnel shortage. The Healthcare Industry needs our intervention to make sure that our Nation's patients have workers who are sufficiently trained to their health care needs. Let's support the Reinvestment Act today with the acknowledgement that much more remains to be done.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3487.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF THE YEAR OF THE ROSE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292) to support the goals of the Year of the Rose.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 292

Whereas the study of fossils has shown that the rose has been a native wild flower in North America for over 35,000,000 years;

Whereas the rose is grown today in every State in the United States;

Whereas the rose has long been used to symbolize love, friendship, beauty, peace, and the devotion of the people of the United States to their Nation;

Whereas the rose has been cultivated and grown in gardens for over 5,000 years, and is

referred to in both the Old and New Testaments;

Whereas the rose has for many years captivated the affection of humankind and it has been revered in art, music, and literature;

Whereas George Washington was a breeder of roses and one of his varieties, named after his mother, is still grown today;

Whereas in 1986 the rose was designated as the national floral emblem of the United States; and

Whereas the American Rose Society has designated 2002 as the Year of the Rose: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports the goals of the Year of the Rose; and

(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 292.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 292. This resolution supports the goals of the Year of the Rose and it encourages the President to issue a proclamation asking Americans to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I commend my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. McCRERY) for his hard work to bring this resolution to the floor.

The rose has been an important symbol of love in our society for centuries. Its sheer beauty illuminates thousands of flower gardens across our great land, from the East to the West Coast and from North to South. The rose is grown and cultivated in every state of the Union.

Fossil studies have concluded that the rose has been a native wild flower in North America for some 35 million years. It is also referred to in passages of the Old and New Testaments in the Bible.

One of our great public servants, the first President of the United States, George Washington, was a breeder of roses. In fact, one of his varieties, named after his mother, Mary Ball Washington, is still grown today. For many years the rose has captivated the affection of humankind and has been revered in art, music and literature.

In 1986, the rose was designated as the national floral emblem of the

United States. This is a distinct honor for a flower that has touched the hearts and lives of millions of Americans for many, many years. The American Rose Society has designated the year 2002 as the Year of the Rose.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, I am pleased to join with my colleague in the House in consideration of H. Con. Res. 292, a resolution introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. McCRERY).

Roses are beautiful and have long been used to symbolize love, friendship, and peace. Indeed, four States in this country currently list some variation of rose as their official state flower: New York, Iowa, Georgia, North Dakota currently recognize this beautiful flower.

The resolution before us speaks to the fact that the rose was designated as the national emblem of the United States and that the American Rose Society has designated the year 2002, next year, as the Year of the Rose.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we all know that individually in our own lives, roses have played serious roles. They are used by people to extend friendship. I can imagine that all of us who are males have, at some point in time, picked up a dozen roses or, if not a dozen, at least a half a dozen, to convey in some way, shape, form, or fashion an appreciation that we may have had.

So I think this is an excellent resolution. As a matter of fact, I even fondly remember my father teaching me how to date, and he told me that when I wanted to convey to whoever the date might be, that I ought to say to them, roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in a very serious way, roses do, in fact, convey not only a level of appreciation, but also a level of respect, and I commend the gentleman for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. McCRERY).

(Mr. McCRERY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for their eloquent statements on behalf of the support of this resolution for the Year of the Rose.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rose Society is headquartered in my hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana. The American Rose Society has designated 2002 as the Year of the Rose, and at a time in which images of violence and war are a constant reminder of the capacity of man to be cruel to its fellow man, the rose stands as a reminder of the beauty and the fragility of life.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution will call public attention to the worthy goals of the Year of the Rose, and I urge its adoption.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, having no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 292.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REPORT ON NATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN AERONAUTICS AND SPACE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 11 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 2000. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed four Space shuttle flights. In terms of robotic space flights, there were 24 U.S. expendable launch vehicle launches in FY 2000. Five of these launches were NASA-managed missions, nine were Department of Defense (DoD)-managed missions, and eight were FAA-licensed